# 32nd FOUGHT WAY TO HEIGHTS OF OURCQ, THENCE TO VESLE it remained in support position until the following night, when it was finally withdrawn and transported to the area near Toul, where the First American Army was now beginning to assemble. In the five days of its active work around Juvigny the division had lost 13 officers and 255 enlisted men killed and 55 officers and 255 enlisted men wounded for missing. It had advanced about five kilometers and had captured 337 prisoners, including nine officers, these men coming chiefly from the VIIIth, CCXXIII. CXXXVIII and CCXXXVIII the German Divisions. It had also taken four field pieces, 128 machine guns, minenwerfers and treach mortars, 700 rifles, 41,000 rounds of artiflery ammunition and 270,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition. But, more than all, it had broken one of the strongest props of the German defenses between the Aisne and the Allette, and when it departed those defenses were tottering to their fall. (The part of the 4th Division in the July counter-offensive will be described in next week's issue.)

Continued from Page 1

By the fire from this wood the right of the 42nd United States Division was being held up and severely punished in Sergy, about a kilometer to the west. Consequently, by order of the 38th (French) Corps., another methodical artillery preparation began at 1:30 p.m., and at 2 o'clock the 83rd Brigade proceeding northward across two kilometers are promotived across two kilometers are promotived and across two kilometers are promotived and across two kilometers are promotived and across two kilometers are promotived by the service of the Bois de Jomblets that the 42nd of the Bois de Jomblets are the Armonic Marchael and the service of the service

By this time the German positions to the west, immediately along the Ourcq itself, were pretty well shaken. But on the fronts of the 42nd and 32nd Divisions the strongest parts of their line, along tile hill crests north of the valley, were still securely held—Hill 230, Bellevue and Reddy Farms, the bits of woodland called the Bois de Planchette and the Bois Pelger, the village and chauteau of Nesles, and the Foret de Nesles.

### Struggle for Watershed

Nesles, and the Foret de Nesles.

Struggle for Watershed

If these places could be taken—and all of them were now within two kilometers of the American front line—the height of land between the Ourcq and the Vesle arrivers would be reached and it was not probable that the enemy could offer, so strong a resistance on any other line for some distance northward. General Haan accordingly ordered an attack on the entire divisional front, the outer flanks of both infantry brigades to advance on given objectives while the right companies of the 63rd Brigade should endeavor to envelope this strong point. The maneuver was started early on the morning of August 1. The enemy resisted desperately. About 9 o'clock a fierce counter-attack drove the troops on the left out of the Bols de Jomblets to their positions of the previous afternoon and, at the same time, the troops on the right, after once capturing Hill 230, were obliged to give it up again on account of the machine guns on the front lines, and observers reported such large concentrations of German infantry and tanks in the vicinity of Nesles, moving in the direction of the 32th United States Division under the orders of General Haan to prepare and hold a defense line in case the attacking 32th Division should be stopped and driven back.

Bols de Jomblets Retaken

Bots de Jomblets Betaken

But the 32nd kept on, largely because of many such acts as that of Machine Gun Sergeant Dougold Perguson, 128th Infantry, who, when the infantry near him was held up by a German machine gun, seized a rifle, rushed around the enemy's position, bayonetted two of the gunners and shot the third, and so enabled the infantry to advance. A barrage was laid on the Bots de Jomblets behind which the 125th Infantry moved forward and shortly after noon again occupied that woodland under heavy shell fire.

behind which the 125th Infantry moved forward and shortly after noon again occupied that woodland under heavy shell fire.

Between 2 and 3 o'clock the 127th Infantry worked ahead and enguifed Bellevue Farm and Hill 230, leaving Reddy Farm, with its terrible circle of fire, still in the enemy's possession but in a steadily closing sallent. Not, long after, the 125th Infantry again lunged forward on the left and took the Bois Planchette and the Bois Pelger, of which they held the former but were obliged to relinquish the latter before nightfall. It was in the Bois Pelger that Pvt. H. J. Devereaux, Co. M. angered because a German machine gun, after wounding his-corporal continued firing on the latter, strode forward with his rifle and put gun and gunners out of business.

The situation was now such that the

ners out of business.

The situation was now such that the command of the 6th French Army deemed it probable that a concerted advance could break through, and such an advance on the part of the 1st United States and the 38th and 3rd French Corps was ordered, to begin at 4:15 o'clock on the morning of August 2.

# General Attack Begun

it soon became evident that the enemy, despairing of further effective resistance on that line, was retreating. Reddy Farm was passed, and by 9 a. m. the attack had hecome a pursuit, which, pressed with all possible vigor and delayed only occasionally and for short period by bursts of machine gun fire, pushed on northward through Chamery, Coulonges, Villome and Coban, over great stretches of abandoned trenches, while ahead the smoke, flames and explosions of burning supplies, ammunition dumps and bridges indicated the haste of the German retreat. By midnight the front line was north of Dravegny, more than six kilometers beyond its starting point, and French cavairy patrols were still beyond.

made the supply problem a very hard one, and often the tired troops had to go hungry.

night in the right of the sector, the 63rd Infantry Brigade, in consequence of the progressive narrowing of the freed that the severely purished in the sector of the progressive narrowing of the freed that the severely purished in the 28th Division on the 18th Division of the 18th Division of the 18th Division of the 18th Division of the 18th Division was being held up and severely punished in Sergy, about a kilometer to the west. Consequently, by order of the 38th (French) Corps, another methodical arillery preparation began at 1:30 p.m., and at 2 o'clock the 63rd Brigade proceeded in the 18th Division, now able to leave Sergy beind, well up on the sinc taken promptly. On the right Cerges was the the 28th Division, now able to leave Sergy and the 18th Sergy about a Kilometer of the bolis de Jombiets, with the 42nd Division, now able to leave Sergy beind, well up on the limit the promptly on the right than the troops went far up the hilliside northers at of it. But unfortunately the take the Bois in the 18th Cercon in the 1

the hank of the river, and then to cross it.

The 128th Infantry, attacking Fismes in the night of August 3-4, but repulsed with heavy losses, was relieved by the 127th Infantry, which, late on the afternoon of the 4th, led by such officers as 1st Lt. Roy C. Dickop, who, after being mortally wounded, gave the order. "Charge," and led the assault of his company until he fell dead, succeeded in getting one battalion through the town. It dug in on the river bank and stayed there under an unceasing storm of machine gun fire and an artillery bombardment which was also sweeping all the roads in the rear as far back as Dravegeny.

Patrols Reach River

Meantime, the 125th Infantry, in the left sector, was held to the bluffs by the enemy's fire, except for a few patrols which reached the river. Through the gallantry of officers like 2nd Lts. G. W. Kuhiman and J. S. Colton, and Sgt. W. A. Hartman, and the other enlisted men who accompanied them, the 107th Engineers had already thoroughly reconnoitered sites for pontoon bridges at Fismes, and by the morning of the 5th they had bridge material ready to lay, thus as no wagons could live in the town, and the north bank of the river was not secured, the material was not sent up too close.

secured, the material was not sent up too close.

During the 5th the French division on the right succeeded in occupying the southern bank in its sector in force, while Col. Langdon of the 127th Infantry, and Gen. Robert Alexander, who had succeeded Gen. Conner in command of the 63rd Brigade, labored to build up a line on the north bank by gradually passing individuals and small groups across the river.

individuals and small groups across the river.

By that evening the losses in the long battle had been so severe that the 127th Infantry had less than 400 effectives left, and the other regiments were not in much better case, while the state of exhaustion of the whole division was such that the Third United States Corps, since August 4 commanding in place of the 38th French Corps, ordered it relieved by the 28th United States Division, and it retired for rest to the area between Dravengy and Cierges, the commanding general of the 28th Division taking command of the Fismes sector at daylight, August 7.

### Attack on Juvigny

Attack on Juvigny
There remains to be mentioned to the credit of the 32nd Division one more engagement, and this a very important one, previous to the battle of the Argonnemanchy, its attack on Juvigny.

Early in August the British and French armies began pounding in the head of the enemy's Amieus salient. Pressure also continued, but without much success, on the Vesle front, with the object of eventually pushing across the Aisne and recovering the old French positions on the Chemin des Dames.

pushing across the Aisne and recovering the old French positions on the Chemin des Dames.

About the 20th of the month, in order to aid the progress of both these attacks, the French began driving a wedge fint the German front between Soissons and the Oise river, which by the 28th had developed a salient, the left side of which flanked the enemy's Hindenburg line near the Oise, while its right side wos moving castward squarely across the flank of his defensive systems between the Aisne and the Ailette. The Germans knew that if this flank attack could not be stopped promptly, their Vesle, Aisne and Chemin des Dames positions were all doomed, and perhaps Laon as well, and they fought flercely to retain their foothold. From the vicinity of the Oise to Soissons, the 18th, 7th, 30th, 1st and 20th French Corps, constituting the 10th French Army, were pressing the attack, and on August 26 the 32nd United States Division, its strength to some extent, though by no means completely, restored by replacements, was ordered up from its rest area near Dravesny to the 30th French Corps, where during the night of August 27-28, it relieved the 127th French Division in the front line.

Holding Up Army Front

# Holding Up Army Front

Holding Up Army Front

To its left lay the 64th French Division of its own corps and to its right the 59th French Division of the lat Corps. In front of it, at a distance of about a kilometer down a gradual, open hill slope. the embankment of the railroad from Soissons to Creey-au-Mont crossed the divisional sector nearly at right angles, and about a kilometer beyond the railroad, in the middle of the sector, the solidly-built village of Juvigny nestled in the bottom of a ravine, one of whose wooded branches extended southwestward toward the right flank of the 53th Division.

General Attack Begun

During the night the 4th French Division, right of the 32nd United States, which was slightly behind, cleared out the strongest position in its front, the hill crest of the Courteaux Farm, and fanking from there toward the left, strangled out the woods of the Patis defarmery and came up in the line with the Americans on Hill 230.

At the hour set, the attack began, the advance battalion of the 63rd Brigade beling supported by the batteries of the fillst Field Artillery and those of the 119th Field Artillery and those of the 119th Field Artillery and those of the 119th Field Artillery, while each battalion also had a machine gun company and a number of 37mm guns and Stokes mortars for clearing out machine gun nests.

The movement progressed rapidly, and the 12sth Infantry on the strong of the 12sth infantry on the 11st soon became evident that the enemy, despairing of further effective resistance on that line, was retreating. Redly Farm or the railroad where, however, the troops were so exposed to the enemy's raking fire that eventually resort had to be had to distribution in great depth, leaving a few men in shell holes at the extreme front, while most of them lay back of the hill crest.

# Assault Stopped in Tracks

of machine gun fire, pushed on northward through Chamery, Coulonges, Villome and Cohan, over great stretches of abandoned trenches, while ahead the smoke, flames and explosions of burning supplies, ammunition dumps and bridges indicated the haste of the German February of Bridges, and the branch of the ravine above mentioned was readily repulsed, and early the financial of the German February at the branch of the ravine above mentioned was readily repulsed, and early the financial of the property of the property and the branch of the ravine above mentioned was readily repulsed, and early the financial of the property of the starting point, and French cavalry parties were still beyond.

Artillery Ordered Forward

So rapid was the advance that during the night we batteries of the 147th Field Artillery reparation and covered by a college of the 107th Ammunition Train, were ordered up to join the Infantry advance guards and give immediate rapid fire with open sights if machine gun opposition was encountered, while battallons of the 118th 12ist and 147th Field Artillery were also echeloned in advanced positions so that the Infantry, in going forward would at no time be without prompt artillery support.

Directing its march upon the small town of Fiames, on the south bank of the Vesle, about halfway between Soissons and Reims, the 32nd pushed on, and at 10 a.m. the advance of the 127th Infantry, leading the 64th Brigade, was nearly into St. Gilles, and the 63rd Brigade was at Resson Farm, at which points both were overcoming machine gun resistance, while the men of the attached battallons of the 107th Engineers were were working and roads and permit the supplies to come up.

But the congestion of the traffic of several divisions advancing in close proximity to one another and the conditions of the roads after several days of heavy rains



### Crazy American Barrage

Crazy American Barrage
The enemy, who had anticipated an attack from the northwest and arranged his
defense accordingly, was surprised by the
attack from the southwest, and the Americans escaped many casualties by reason
of the fact that a large proportion of the
machine guns were blanketed in that direction.
Except on the left, the north-and-south

machine guns were blanketed in that direction.

Except on the left, the north-and-south road just east of Juvigny was now the American front line. General Irwin, who now has under his orders not only the grant of the later of later of later of the later of later of later of the later of the





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fire of the artillery. The Americans were shooting all over the terrain. Their fire was certainly crazy."

It was a sort of insanity, then, which was better than reason for, although in spots, as at Beaumonn Farm and in the Bois d'Alsace, some spirited opposition had to be overcome, the advance was rapid, and before 8 p.m. the troops were in Terny-Sorny, 555 unwounded prisoners had been started back to the cages, and observers reported that everywhere to the castward German artillery and transport was fleeing toward Margival and other remote hamilets.

Machine Gunners Take 80

By brilliant maneuvering, one unit, the machine gun company of the 125th Infantry, on the left of the advance, succeeded in capturing 80 prisoners and two 105mm, field guns with ammunition. Immediately afterward the enemy began firing incendiary efficies in an altempt to blow up this lost ordnance, but Pyt. E. C. Dressell, of the machine gun company, going in among the bursting shells, put out the fires and saved the ammunition and his comrades' lives.

In the ravines and network of trenches and wire beyond the limits of the barrage the enemy at length made a stand, chiefly to protect his arrangements for further retreat. September I was spent by the 33hd Division in cleaning our remaining machine gun nests and in improving the positions won, the front line occupying approximately the north and south road just west of Terny-Sonny, with patrols covering the ground in front of it.

That night the 32nd was relieved by the 1st Moroccan Division, behind which



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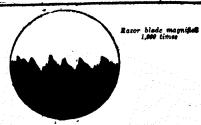
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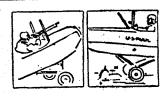
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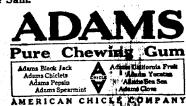
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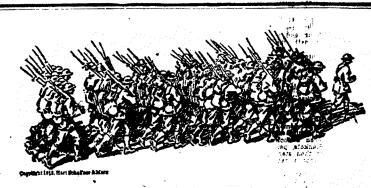


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